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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Sustainable Development and international economic cooperation

Letter dated 17 September 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint declaration on partnership and cooperation between Romania and Armenia, signed by Mr. Robert Kocharian, President of Armenia, and Mr. Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania, on 3 July 1998, during President Constantinescu's official visit to Yerevan.

May we ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 33 and 93.

(*Signed*) Movses **Abelian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ion **Gorita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations

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Annex

Joint declaration on partnership and cooperation between Romania and the Republic of Armenia

The President of the Republic of Armenia and the President of Romania,

– Having conducted comprehensive talks on the current status of and the prospects for bilateral relations between the two countries and their cooperation in international affairs;

– Expressing the determination of the peoples of the Republic of Armenia and Romania to enhance and diversify their mutually beneficial relationship further in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, signed between the two countries;

– Reiterating their commitment to the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the shared values of pluralistic democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and market-driven prosperity;

– Being persuaded that the fruitful development of Armenian-Romanian cooperation, both bilateral and in the format of multilateral organizations and programmes, serves the broader interests of international peace and stability in their respected regions;

Have agreed on the following practical steps:

1. To improve political contacts, including mutual visits at the executive and parliamentary levels.

To activate the existing working mechanism for consultations between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs on bilateral and international matters of mutual concern.

The Romanian side expressed its readiness to open a resident embassy in Yerevan during 1998.

2. To develop the legal framework for bilateral relations by concluding new agreements and conventions in specific areas of mutual interest.

3. To encourage contacts between the business and financial communities in the two countries with the aim of significantly increasing the volume of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

4. To favour the establishment of direct links between relevant institutions and organizations in the spheres of culture, education, health and social services, scientific research and technological development, information technology, and also between representatives of the civil society and the non-governmental organizations.

5. To exchange experiences and expertise on comprehensive economic and social reform and institution-building in the process of integration in, or cooperation with, relevant European and Euro-Atlantic political, economic and security structures, including the Council of Europe, the European Union, the European Atlantic Partnership Council and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

To initiate other forms of bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation in various fields in accordance with accepted European practice and procedures.

The Romanian side expressed its support for the application of the Republic of Armenia to join the Council of Europe.

6. To promote military cooperation under the Partnership for Peace programme and also on a bilateral level, including the area of defence technology.

7. to work closely together in the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization for the realization of regional projects in trade facilitation, communication, transportation, energy, environment protection and other agreed areas.

8. To cooperate in the process of completion of the European Union-sponsored projects on the Transport Corridor from Europe through the Caucasus to Asia and the Interstate Oil and Gas to Europe by seeking access to the combined resources of the Poland and Hungary Assistance for Economic Restructuring programme and the programme on Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States, the assistance of multinational financial institutions, and private capital investments.

9. To enhance mutual knowledge between the two peoples by encouraging tourist exchanges, professional, educational and business travel, and media links.

To provide adequate conditions for the exercise of the lawful rights of Armenian nationals of Romanian origin and Romanian nationals of Armenian origin with regard to the preservation of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, on an equal basis and without discrimination, in accordance with the highest universally valid standards.

10. To cooperate effectively and in good faith in the fight against non-conventional threats to international peace and stability: organized crime and corruption, international terrorism, illegal traffic in drugs, art objects, arms and other prohibited substances or materials, counterfeiting, and unlawful immigration.

11. To set up the Armenian-Romanian Steering Commission in order to facilitate effective implementation of the agreed steps.

DONE at Yerevan, on 3 July 1998, in the Armenian and Romanian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

President of the Republic of Armenia
Robert **Kocharian**

President of Romania
Emil **Constantinescu**